



Sermon Discussion Questions

Sunday, December 4, 2011

Dr. Mike Moses - Huntersville

Michael Flake - Davidson

Series: Exchanging Christmas

Topic: Give More

Note to Group Leaders:

This is part 2 of our series leading up to Christmas Eve. Over the time of this series, really pay attention to the "use it" section and don't skip it. Each week ask the group how they are doing applying the Scripture. The main emphasis of this series is the application.

Introduce it:

We are in the Advent Season. "Advent" is a Latin word that means "coming" and is a season practiced in Western Christianity focused on "preparing for the celebration of the coming of Jesus." In these preparations, we can feel a lot of unnecessary pressure. One of those pressures centers around what we will "give" to others.

The definition of a "gift" is to give to someone "not" because you have to. A "have to" gift is a payment and not a "gift". So, be honest with the group--tell about a gift you gave because you felt like you "had" to and not because you "wanted" to. Are their gifts you plan to give this year because you feel like you "have" to?

Are their gifts you have given to people and were upset because they didn't give to you? Why did you expect them to give the gifts to you? Be honest! Let the group laugh with you about it.

Revisit it: learn the passage preached on.

Read John 1:1-4; 14

List everything you learn in these passages about the "Word". Try to name 7 things.

Read 1 John 1:1-4

List everything you learn in these passages about the "Word". Try to name 7 things.

Read Romans 5:6-10

You've seen all the great things about the Word and here you see that the Word was given. Why was the Word of God given? When did God give him? Did he give this gift because he had to?

Because God gave this gift, what are the results of it?

In the sermon at Huntersville this morning, Mike gave various specific guidelines for "giving more" this Christmas. Read the following guidelines and answer the question of "how God did each of these in the passages we have read".

- * Give your presence. In what ways did God give his presence?
- * Give a personal gift. How did God give personally?
- * Give intentionally (thinking ahead of time about the gift) and sacrificially. How did God do both?
- * Give a gift that is sacrificial and cost you. In what ways did God's gift cost Him?
- * Give to those that are in need. What were we in need of that made God give to us?
- * Give a gift that can celebrate and strengthen the relationship. In what ways did God do this?

Use it: don't just learn the passage but use it.

Now, answer the same questions for yourself in light of knowing what God has done:

- * Give your presence. Be creative as a group and think of ways to give your presence?
- * Give a personal gift. What is a very personal way you plan to give this Christmas?
- * Give intentionally (thinking ahead of time about the gift) and sacrificially. Who do you need to put more thought into giving to than you usually do?

- *Give a gift that is sacrificial and cost you. What do you need to sacrificially spend besides money?
- *Give to those that are in need. Who are those that are in need around you?
- * Give a gift that can celebrate and strengthen the relationship. What relationship do you hope will strengthen this Christmas? How can you give in a manner that will strengthen it?

Remember it: memorize a verse that helps you to remember and use it.

Memorize Paul's words in John 1:14;

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Write this on a piece of paper and put it on your mirror and in your car. Share this verse with your children to help them begin thinking about the gift that God gave to us! Begin now helping them celebrate Christmas differently this year.